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Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

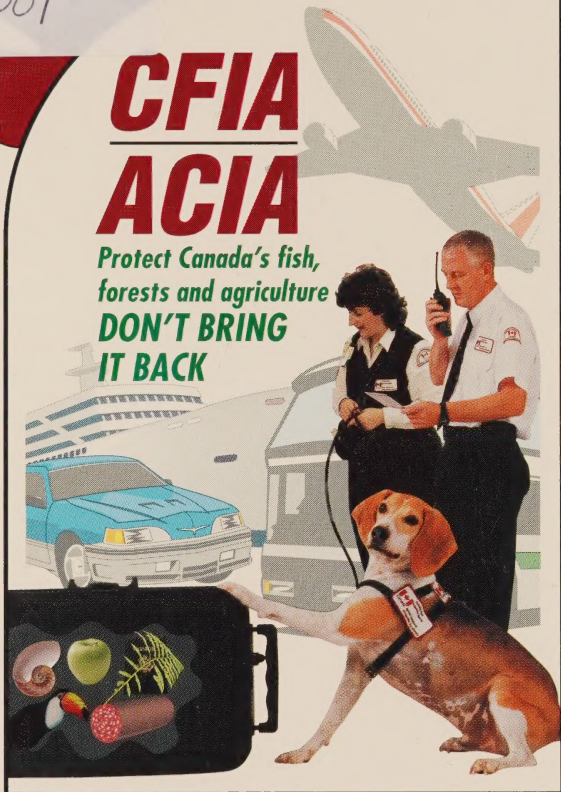
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CFIA ACIA

Protect Canada's fish,
forests and agriculture
**DON'T BRING
IT BACK**



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Canada 

DON'T BRING IT BACK

Traveller's Handbook

Canada, with its vast natural resources, has an economy largely based on agriculture (includes plants and animals), forestry, and fisheries.

Canada remains relatively free of many of the world's worst threats to these resource-based industries. An insect infestation or disease outbreak could cost billions of dollars to control and could result in the loss of international trade of our agricultural goods and fish products.

This booklet includes the Canadian Import Requirements for common foods and plants, animals, fish, and their products brought to Canada. These requirements apply to personal luggage.

Responsibility rests with you, the traveller, to be aware of the requirements for bringing these items into Canada. It is up to you to **be aware and declare**.

Be aware.....

that many foods and plants, animals, fish, and their products, are restricted or prohibited entry into Canada. They could carry pests or diseases that could spell disaster for Canada's agricultural, fishery, and forestry industries.

And declare....

Canadian law requires that you declare all foods and plants, fish, animals, and their products that you bring

into Canada. You must declare such items to Revenue Canada Customs inspectors when you arrive, whether you have travelled by land, sea, or air. At some locations, **specially trained dogs** are used to sniff out concealed food, plant, animal and fish products.

There are many items that you are allowed to bring with you - some of these must be accompanied by certificates or permits. If the product does not meet Canadian requirements, it may be **seized and disposed of, or ordered removed from Canada, or required to be treated before it is allowed to stay**. Any cost incurred with the removal, quarantine, treatment, or disposal of non-compliant products is the full responsibility of the traveller.

There are also **restrictions on the quantities** of items that can be brought into Canada for personal use, such as dairy products and fresh fruits and vegetables. This pamphlet also indicates these restrictions.

Protecting Canadian agriculture, fisheries, and forests and ensuring the safety of the agri-food industry are the prime objectives of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspectors at international arrival points. All imports of food, plants, animals, fish and their products may be subject to inspection by CFIA inspectors. In some cases, there are fees associated with these inspections which must be paid, by the traveller, before the inspections are conducted.

Other departments such as Revenue Canada Customs and Excise, Health Canada and provincial governments may have requirements in addition to those listed in this pamphlet. Contacting these organizations before travelling is advisable.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA (CITES)

Environment Canada has additional requirements under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for live specimens and products for some 30,000 wild animal and plant species. Species such as monkeys, whales, bears, cats, elephants, birds of prey, parrots, turtles and tortoises, crocodiles, many lizards, boas and pythons, some butterflies, corals, shells, sturgeon and caviar, American ginseng, orchids and cacti, are regulated and require permits. Please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at tel. 1-819-997-1840 or by fax at 1-819-953-6283 before travelling to determine whether permit requirements apply.

PENALTIES

There are penalties for failing to declare food, plants, animals, fish, and their products and for bringing these items into Canada illegally. Individuals who are caught smuggling in these items will have the product seized and could face further enforcement actions. These could range from the imposition of fines, under the Administrative Monetary Penalties Act (AMPS), to prosecution in the criminal courts.

IMPORT SERVICE CENTRES (ISC)

This pamphlet lists commonly imported commodities that are allowed into Canada and those that are prohibited. You may require the import requirements of a commodity which is not listed in either of the two charts. As well, import requirements may change.

IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, FISH AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, BE SURE THAT YOU CONTACT A CFIA IMPORT SERVICE CENTRE BEFORE YOU IMPORT.

For import information, contact one of CFIA's regional import service centres, head office or local offices. ISC staff handle telephone inquiries regarding import requirements for all agricultural, forestry, and fish commodities.

IMPORT SERVICE CENTRES (ISC) ACROSS CANADA

EASTERN ISC

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (local time)

Telephone: (inside Canada or U.S.): 1-877-493-0468

(all other countries): 1-514-493-0468

Fax: 1-514-493-4103

CENTRAL ISC

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (local time)

Telephone: (inside Canada or U.S.): 1-800-835-4486

(all other countries): 1-905-612-6285

Fax: 1-905-612-6280

WESTERN ISC

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (local time)

Telephone: (inside Canada or U.S.): 1-888-732-6222

(all other countries): 1-604-666-7042

Fax: 1-604-541-3373

CFIA HEAD OFFICE

Telephone: 1-613-225-2342

CFIA LOCAL OFFICES

Telephone number as listed in the blue pages of the
telephone book.

CFIA WEB SITE

www.cfia-acia.agr.ca

YOU CAN BRING IT WITH YOU **(Allowed without permits or certificates)**

While all imported agricultural, fish, or forestry products must be declared to Canada Customs officials on arrival, some do not require either permits or certificates. These products can be imported with a traveller's personal luggage, as long as they meet certain conditions. For instance, pine cones must be dried, open and without seeds. Hides and skins must have been tanned. Trophies and stuffed animals must have been professionally prepared and stuffed with synthetic material. Some requirements such as freedom from soil (from countries other than the U.S.), pests and diseases apply to all imported commodities.

These items cannot be for sale, resale, or distribution in Canada. If they are, they must be imported as commercial shipments which may involve different CFIA import requirements.

ALLOWED WITHOUT PERMITS OR CERTIFICATES

(ITEMS YOU MAY BRING INTO CANADA)

≤ means less than or equal to

BAKERY GOODS-unless they contain meat

BAMBOO POLES

BEACH SAND-from salt water beaches

BIRD'S NESTS (soup)-edible

CHEESE-if pure, hard or soft, commercially prepared or home made, except if packed in whey
(≤ 20 kg or \$20.00 value)

COCONUTS-if unsprouted

CONES-e.g. pine or spruce, dried, open and without seeds, debris and pests

CORN HUSKS-e.g. dolls, toys, ornaments

**CORN MEAL, CORN STARCH,
POPPED/POPPING CORN**

CRAB-live, frozen or processed, except live Chinese mitten crab which is prohibited

DOGS-assistance dogs, officially certified as service, guide or hearing dogs, accompanied by user

FEATHERS-washed and dyed

FEED-livestock, must have Canadian registration number

FISH PRODUCTS-except all forms of puffer fish which is prohibited

FLOUR, MALT, COUSCOUS

FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE-for floral arrangements, fresh, except coniferous foliage and green cones

FRUITS-candied and dried

FRUITS-fresh, exotic (tropical) and citrus (≤ 15 packages with total weight ≤ 250 kg)

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES-frozen, canned, dehydrated or dried (≤ 20 kg)

HERBS-leafy greens e.g. basil, mint, chives, if free of pests, soil, and roots

HONEY-for human consumption (≤ 20 kg)

INSECTS-dead

INVERTEBRATES-only certain types such as centipedes, scorpions, spiders

LEATHER GOODS-fully tanned or hard dried

LOBSTER-live, frozen, or processed

MAPLE SYRUP AND MAPLE PRODUCTS

(≤ 20 L or ≤ 5 kg)

MUSHROOMS-dried or cooked

NUTS-roasted and processed, except hazel nuts going to B.C.

PLANT FIBRES-e.g. cotton, kenaf, sisal, jute

ROCKS, STONES, AND MINERALS-if free from soil and organic debris

SEA SHELLS, SEA FANS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES

SEEDS-flower and vegetable, commercially packaged (<500 g for small seed e.g. cabbage and <5 kg for large seed e.g. white beans)

SEEDS-beans, peas and lentils for human consumption

SPHAGNUM, PEAT AND MOSS-new, never used and originating from non-agricultural area to be used as packing material

SPICES, DRIED HERBS, TEAS

STRAW GOODS-things made from straw, provided they are free of seed heads and are processed (bleached, dyed, shellacked, dried with heat)

TROPHIES-professionally prepared in display form and stuffed with synthetic material

VEGETABLES-fresh, except root crops such as potatoes, carrots, horseradish, turnip (≤15 packages with total weight ≤ 250 kg)

WOOD-manufactured wood items such as carvings, artifacts, furniture and similar articles without bark and free of disease, insects, fungi

YOU CAN BRING IT BACK, BUT YOU NEED A PERMIT OR CERTIFICATES-RESTRICTED

Some agricultural, fish, and forestry products must be accompanied by certificates or permits because they have specific health requirements. If these items are not accompanied by the required documents, they will not be permitted entry into Canada. Application forms, for **Canadian permits to import**, are available at the CFIA Import Service Centres, head office and local offices.

The importation of some **meat** and **dairy products**, **fish** and **fish eggs**, **plants**, **fruits**, **vegetables**, and **nuts** may require permits, that must be issued in Canada in advance, and/or should be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the country of origin. Call CFIA for specific requirements. Fees are charged in Canada for permits and related services.

CFIA import requirements for some products are determined by their origin. For instance raw, fresh, or frozen/chilled **meat** which originates from the U.S. requires proof of origin and must be less than 20 kg in total weight. Two dozen shell **eggs** and 20 kg of processed egg are permitted from the U.S. As well, **game animal carcasses**, from the U.S., would meet CFIA requirements if the hunter shows a valid hunter's permit. However, certificates are required when these products originate from certain non-U.S. sources.

Edible **meat products** containing more than 3% of meat by weight, such as smoked or dried meat, jerky, sausage, ham, patties, pies, head cheese, blood pudding, bacon, haggis etc., require proof of U.S. origin and must be less than 20 kg in total weight (maximum of one turkey allowed). These products may be allowed from certain other countries if accompanied by the appropriate documentation. Fully cooked meat products which are sterile, in hermetically sealed containers (glass jars or metallic cans only), commercially prepared, and shelf stable can enter if under 20 kg and if they originate in countries free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (B.S.E.). Call CFIA for more details.

Permits are required in advance for **live animals**. A health inspection of the animal in the country of origin may also be necessary in order to obtain a health certificate. However, one or two domesticated dogs or cats travelling with the owner can be brought into Canada without a permit provided they are accompanied by a current or valid rabies vaccination certificate.

(PROHIBITED)

ITEMS YOU MAY NOT BRING INTO CANADA

These items are prohibited because they pose a serious risk of introducing or spreading pests or diseases, or are unsafe for consumption even if they are inspected. As well, the absence of a permit to import and/or certificates for imported products, where these documents are required, will render the products prohibited. Prohibited products are not allowed into Canada and will be ordered removed, or will be seized and disposed of. All costs relating to their removal or seizure and disposal are the full responsibility of the traveller.

Prohibitions do not always apply to every country and a particular item may be allowed from one country, but not from any other. Some items are prohibited entry from any country.

As the pest and disease situation around the world is constantly changing, it is important to seek information and advice from the CFIA **before** importing agricultural or forest products. Check with CFIA's Import Service Centres, head office and local offices before you travel.

(PROHIBITED)

ITEMS YOU MAY NOT BRING INTO CANADA

ANIMAL FAT/SUET-from countries other than the U.S.

BARK-from countries other than the U.S.

BLUEBERRY AND CRANBERRY PLANTS-from most countries other than the U.S.

BONSAI-with soil and from countries other than the U.S.

CHRISTMAS TREES AND CONIFER WREATHS-from countries other than the U.S.

CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANTS-from most countries other than the U.S.

CRAB-mitten, live

CURRENT AND GOOSEBERRY PLANTS-from most countries other than the U.S.

DOUGLAS FIR PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

EGGPLANT PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

FISH-puffer, all forms

FRUITS-temperate, fresh (e.g. apples, apricots, strawberries and other fruits grown in Canada), from many countries other than the U.S.

FRUIT TREE PLANTS-temperate, from most countries other than the U.S.

GRAPE PLANTS-from most countries other than the U.S.

LARCH PLANTS-from most countries other than the U.S.

PEPPER PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

PINE PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

PLANT WITH SOIL-from countries other than the U.S.

POTATO-tubers, plants, seed potatoes, pollen, tissue-cultures, eyes, from countries other than the U.S.

SOD-from countries other than the U.S.

SOIL AND SOIL MIXTURES AND GROWING MEDIA-e.g. containing sand, decomposed or undecomposed humus, compost, peat, sphagnum, muck or other fibrous organic materials, soil contaminated things, from countries other than the U.S.

SOIL FILLED ARTICLES-from countries other than the U.S.

SPRUCE PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

STRAW (CEREAL)-packing material and straw filled articles, from countries other than the U.S. and some U.S. states

STRAWBERRY PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

TOBACCO PLANTS

TOMATO PLANTS-from countries other than the U.S.

**HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY AND DON'T FORGET TO
CALL CFIA IF UNSURE OF CANADA'S IMPORT
REQUIREMENTS ...**

... BE AWARE AND DECLARE!

NOTES

